



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor Palin Appoints Fairbanks Superior Court Judge

February 19, 2008, Juneau, Alaska - Governor Sarah Palin today appointed Paul Lyle to the Fairbanks Superior Court. He replaces the Honorable Niesje J. Steinkruger, who retired.

Lyle, 54, currently serves as an assistant attorney general in Fairbanks, where he is the lead attorney on Indian issues. During his tenure of more than 24 years with the Alaska Department of Law, he served for two years as the state's ethics attorney.

"Paul's respected academic and professional background will serve the Fairbanks Judicial District well," Governor Palin said. "I am pleased to appoint someone to the bench who has a strong knowledge of complex tribal-state matters and a profound regard for the rule of law."

Lyle has been a resident of Fairbanks for 27 years and has practiced law for more than 28 years. He graduated magna cum laude from Temple University School of Business in 1975, and graduated from Temple University School of Law in 1978. After graduating from law school, he joined the U.S. Army as a captain in the Judge Advocate General Corps.

Lyle and his wife Ruth have three children.

Lyle was one of four candidates presented by the Judicial Council to Governor Palin, who made the selection within the 45 days allowed to fill a vacancy. The Alaska Constitution requires the governor to fill judicial vacancies by appointing from a list of qualified applicants nominated by the Judicial Council. The Judicial Council is an independent citizen's commission created by the Alaska Constitution.

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